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REMARKS

Applicant has amended the drawings and the specification, cancelled claims 1-9, and added claims 10-28 by virtue of the present preliminary amendment.

The drawings have been amended to be consistent with the description in the specification and to correct minor typographical errors. No new matter has been added by amendment to the drawings.

Applicant has amended the specification to correct grammatical errors, minor typographical errors, and various informalities contained in the specification. No new matter has been added by the amendment to the specification.

New claims have been added to more clearly recite the present invention. No new matter is added by the additional claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests entry of the above amendments prior to examination on the merits.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are respectfully solicited.

While the Applicant believes that no fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in the fees, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 07-1853.

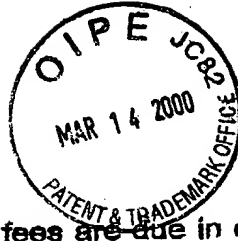
Respectfully submitted,



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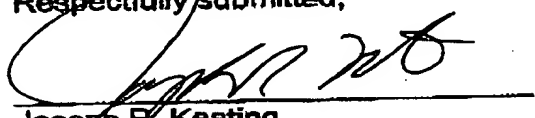
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While the Applicant believes that no fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in the fees, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 07-1853.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: March 9, 2000

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FIG. 5

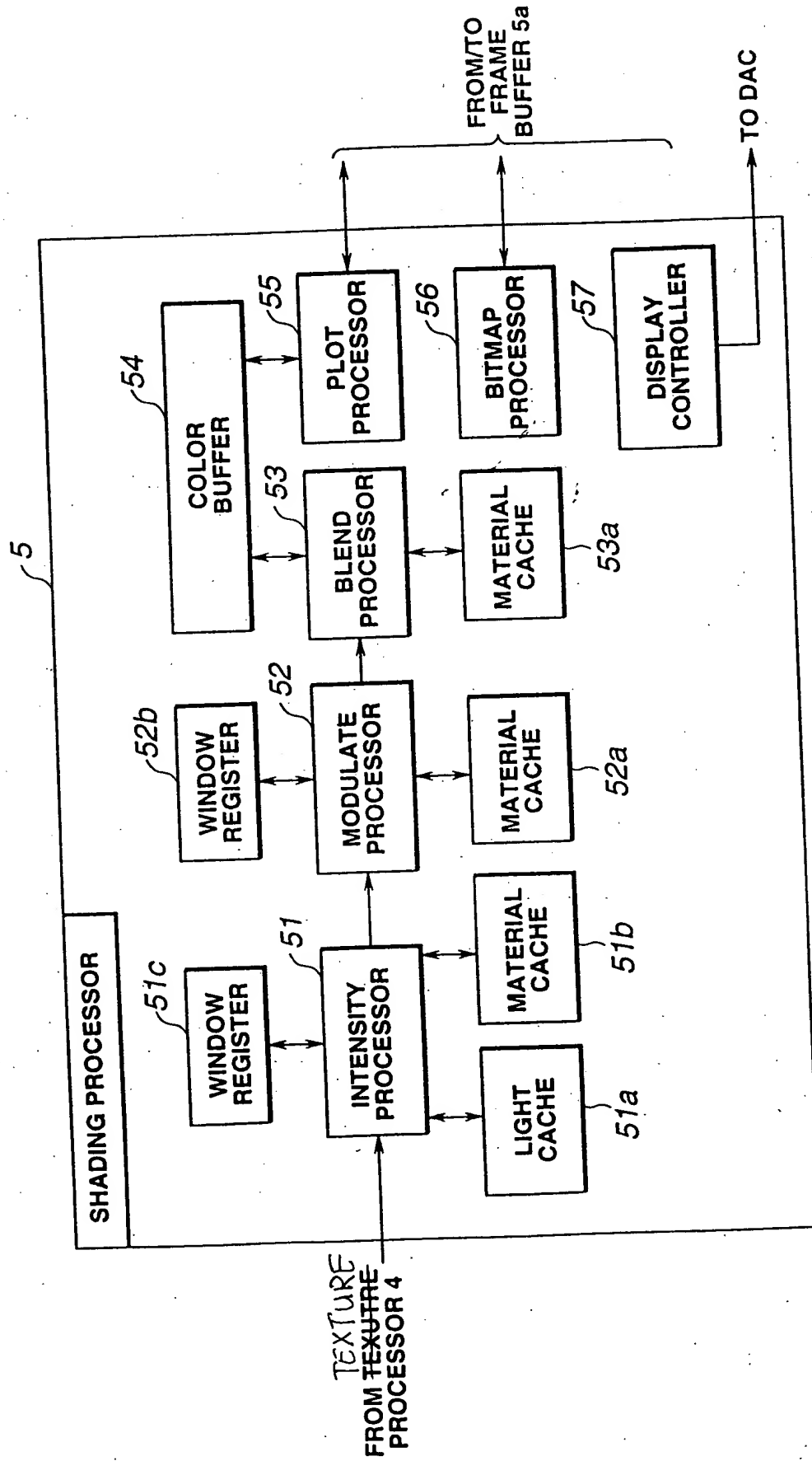


FIG. 7

